



State of California  
**Respiratory Care Board**  
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**Inquiry:** Would it be within legal guidelines to have EMTs perform BASIC respiratory therapy in a medical surgical floor and oncology floor unit? By BASIC, I mean services such as, oxygen therapy, CPR, skilled nursing basic respiratory care services, nebulizer treatments and assessing breathing sounds and vital signs. I would have RCPs performing assessments, consulting and evaluating patients on the medical surgical floor and oncology floor unit. More of the critical thinking skill level procedures. What are your thoughts?

**Response:** The Board can respond specifically to the services of oxygen therapy, nebulizer treatments and basic respiratory care services. It is the Board's opinion that these services must be performed by a licensed practitioner. As such, unlicensed personnel should not be allowed to perform these duties.

Current legislation was recently passed that gives the Board authority to site and fine unlicensed personnel who perform duties that are classified as those to be performed by a licensed practitioner.

Reference # 2003-C-27